

BRIDGMAN GOT ONE WORD

ENOUGH TO TELL PEARY HAD WON AND SHIP WAS SAFE.

Was Prepared to Send News of Disaster Just as Terrible—The Explorer May Get to New York Within a Week—This Was to Be His Last Polar Trip.

Herbert L. Bridgman, secretary of the Peary Arctic Club, and the man who stood behind Peary in all of his efforts to reach the pole, had gone up to Northampton, Mass., with his wife, expecting to stay a few days. It was his idea that he would not hear anything from Mr. Peary before December. Yesterday afternoon he got this message, which had been relayed from Brooklyn:

"H. L. Bridgman, Rahar's Inn, Northampton, Mass."

"Sun." Peary.

The code word "Sun" was the first word on the private code arranged between Peary and Mr. Bridgman before Peary sailed on his last expedition. Its meaning was "Pole reached; Roosevelt safe."

The code, Mr. Bridgman said when he got back to town late last night, took account of contingencies, both successful and unfortunate, and in itself, he considered, is a token of Peary's good faith. No man, Mr. Bridgman thinks, would arrange a private code containing words denoting absolute failure if he did not intend to do his best and then to report exactly what had occurred, no matter whether it was to his liking or not.

The remainder of the code arranged was as follows:

"Sunshine"—89 degrees north latitude reached; Roosevelt safe.

"Sunbeam"—88 degrees north latitude reached; Roosevelt safe.

"Sunstruck"—87 degrees north latitude reached; Roosevelt safe.

"Moon"—86 degrees north latitude reached; Roosevelt safe.

"Moonbeam"—85 degrees north latitude reached; Roosevelt safe.

"Moonstruck"—84 degrees north latitude reached; Roosevelt safe.

"Meteor"—83 degrees north latitude reached; Roosevelt safe.

"Penumbra"—82 degrees north latitude reached; Roosevelt safe.

"Eclipse"—81 degrees north latitude reached; Roosevelt safe.

"Daylight"—80 degrees north latitude reached; Roosevelt safe.

After receiving the cablegram Mr. Bridgman left immediately for New York, leaving Springfield at 6:22 on the train due at Grand Central at 9:30, but which because of the returning crowds did not get in until 10:30. Mrs. Bridgman accompanied him.

There was a broad smile on Mr. Bridgman's face as he came up the concourse at the station and was greeted by a small sized regiment of reporters. He was led to a nearby hotel and when he had seated himself everybody took a long breath and waited.

"Well," said Mr. Bridgman, "I suppose I am now the proud possessor of the only ship in the Arctic, American ship anyway. You know we sent up the Jeanie, the little 100-ton schooner, last month, and I'm not at all certain whether she got to Etah in time to meet Mr. Peary or not. I might as well disclose the truth of the Jeanie's trip, now that we're talking about it."

"Last summer Harry Whitney went up on the Erik, which accompanied Lieut. Peary as far as Etah as an extra collier, the Roosevelt being too small to carry a great deal of coal. Whitney is not an Arctic explorer and is interested in the expedition only as a hunter. He wanted to get some muskox and stayed over the winter because you can't get muskoxen in the summer time."

"Last spring Capt. Samuel Bartlett, brother of Capt. Bob Bartlett, the navigator of the Roosevelt, told me that he thought it would be a good idea if he got hold of a boat and took some coal up to Etah for the Roosevelt's return trip. At that time there was only eighty tons at Etah. About the same time, I think it was in May, Mr. Whitney's friends began wondering how he was going to get back, since the Erik had sailed south about three days after the Roosevelt had started for the north. Some of these friends communicated with me and said they would offer a certain sum of money to any one who would go up and get Mr. Whitney. I called the offer to Capt. Bartlett, and he accepted it, or rather we did together."

"I do not know just where the Jeanie is now, but I do not think that she has reached Etah. Mr. Whitney is said by the despatches from Copenhagen to have Dr. Cook's data. He presumably will return either on the Jeanie or on the

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Roosevelt itself, whichever boat leaves Etah first.

"My despatch from Lieut. Peary was dated Indian Harbor. Granted that the weather is good and that they are not troubled by fog, he ought to reach Sydney within the next three days. I presume that he and the Roosevelt were at Indian Harbor when that despatch was sent."

"Sydney is about thirty-six hours from here, so that with good luck Mr. Peary could possibly get back in about a week. The Roosevelt is bound to go to Sydney, as I take it, because that is where the coal is. If he once gets to Sydney Mr. Peary undoubtedly will come back here by train as fast as he can, leaving Bob Bartlett to bring the Roosevelt on. I may remark that a certain man whose name you need not mention has bought a ticket for Mr. Peary for the Hudson-Fulton celebration. You see he had confidence that Peary would be back."

"Of course you will understand that this matter of time is dependent upon the condition of the Roosevelt after her winter's experience, and of this we know absolutely nothing except what is conveyed in that one code word. On her last trip to the north she was badly banged up and couldn't make nearly her normal speed on the return."

Mr. Bridgman was asked when he last heard of Mr. Peary.

"When the Erik came back last summer," he said. "The commander of the Erik told me that the Roosevelt had left Etah on August 17, 1908, and that it was very foggy. The Erik stayed at Etah three days after that, but as a matter of fact the Roosevelt might have gone down to the bottom in half an hour after Mr. Peary said good-bye to the Erik's crew and the latter would never have known anything about it. The Roosevelt, bearing Mr. Peary and his men, plunged out into the fog and that was the last seen of it."

Some one asked what had been Commander Peary's plans for the future in case of failure.

"Why," said Mr. Bridgman, "he didn't say anything about them to me. Mrs. Peary told me that he had said he was going to stay in the north two years and that win or lose this was to be his last trip. He was more confident of success this time than ever before, because he felt that he had eliminated one by one the major part of the difficulties of Arctic travel."

"He was always confident. When I left him ten years ago at Etah I said, 'I think you are going to win. He answered: 'Yes, I think so.' He didn't win then, however, and three more times after that I said good-bye to him, and each time he said the same thing, and each time he failed. I have an idea that he would have tried to keep at it until he won, no matter how long it took him."

"Of the men with him, Capt. Bob Bartlett of Brigus, Newfoundland, has been with him on every trip he has made to the north. He was captain of the first voyage of the first Roosevelt, when they reached 87 degrees 6 minutes. He is the most loyal of men, and his brother, Capt. Samuel Bartlett, is as loyal to Peary as is Bob."

"Right here let me interrupt myself to say that the thing about Dr. Cook's trip which makes me the maddest was Mr. Bradley's boast that he had got Bob Bartlett to go over to Bristol to look at that damned old schooner that Cook took up with him. If the captain had only known why they wanted him to look at that boat—that it was to fight Peary in a race for the pole—he never would have gone."

"The surgeon, Dr. J. C. Goodsell, also had been with Peary before. Then there

were the two scientific men, Edward G. Marvin of Elmira and George Borup, son of Lieut.-Col. Borup, retired, U. S. A., and Dr. B. McMillan. Matt Henson, the colored fellow, shouldn't be left out of any honor that is coming to the expedition. He has stuck to Peary all through—been with him on every trip, and would do anything in the world for Peary."

"Hanson is a sort of an all-around man. He can do anything from drive dogs to tote packs or shoot game. He doesn't care what he does. This was Charley Percy's sixth visit to the north. He's the cook, a Newfoundland and a loyal, faithful chap."

"In the matter of expense of the reported successful expedition, Mr. Bridgman said that he could not tell yet because the accounts of the various trips had not been kept separately, except by Lieut. Peary himself, and it was hard to estimate because of the equipment left over from the last trip."

"The Peary Arctic Club," he said, "has expended more than \$300,000 on these trials since it was organized in 1898. Peary already had made trips on his own account in 1891, 1893, staying over until 1895, and then shorter summer trips in 1896 and 1897. Those of course are not included in the \$300,000."

Mr. Bridgman was asked if he knew whether Peary had made any contract in the matter of lecturing, vaudeville appearances or books. He said he did not think so.

Mr. Bridgman, while very evidently not at all friendly to Dr. Cook and the latter's self-reported success, was careful not to commit himself as throwing too much doubt on Dr. Cook's claims. When asked if he thought there was any connection between Dr. Cook's report and Mr. Peary's—whether Dr. Cook might not have heard that Peary had reached the pole and had decided to forestall him by reporting that he himself had reached the pole, Mr. Bridgman replied:

"I don't think that, but it has occurred to me that it was all arranged that Cook should go to Europe instead of returning directly to America. Whitney told me after leaving Cook that the latter had gold sufficient with him to go to Copenhagen. The only reason I know of for going to Copenhagen instead of directly to the United States is that we haven't any kings here to confer decorations and to receive one at dinner."

Mr. Bridgman said that he doubted very much if Peary, supposing that he had reached the pole after Cook, could tell whether or not the Brooklyn man had been there. "Conditions up in that latitude are changing so all the time," he said, "the tides and currents move things about and the ice is unstable."

As far as the distance travelled by the two men was concerned, Mr. Bridgman said that it would be hard to decide definitely until both had published their full data, but he believed that Peary's trip was much shorter. Certainly that part of it on land was not as long as Dr. Cook's. One reason why Mr. Bridgman said he could not tell much about the length of Peary's journey was that on his last trip the Commander had sighted what he was sure was land, and it was his intention before leaving this country to explore this region if possible and get an idea of the extent of the land.

"How do you account for the difference in time used up by the two men in coming back?" Mr. Bridgman was asked.

"He spread out both hands after the French manner:

"Why should I try to account for it when Dr. Cook has already explained it? If I say too much about these things I am afraid it would sound like what the man called 'insinuation' and I don't want to do that."

Mr. Bridgman said that he really had little information from Peary as to the exact route which he intended to take and so could not tell whether the routes adopted by the two explorers coincided to any extent or not.

"The Eskimos are going to be the ultimate witnesses in this controversy," Mr. Bridgman said. "Dr. Cook says that these two Eskimos that he has brought back with him went with him to the pole after he had left all other white men behind. Commander Peary knows a thing or two about Eskimos. He has spent many years with them, and he will put those two through a cross-examination that will get the truth out of them if anything can."

"I sent a telegram to Mrs. Peary to-day," Mr. Bridgman continued. "It read: 'Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow.' Mrs. Peary at present is at Eagle Island in Casco Bay."

Mr. Bridgman said that there was no way of telling how much of a struggle Commander Peary might have had to get to the pole or to return. "Before now," he said, "he has never been able to break out of the ice for the return before July 4, so I presume that he left Cape Sheridan or wherever it was he wintered somewhere around that date."

Mr. Bridgman said he also had sent telegrams to-day to the President and to the Secretary of the Navy—this because of Peary's connection with that branch of the service—and to Theodore Roosevelt.

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vult at Nairobi telling them of Mr. Peary's successful journey.

According to the secretary of the Peary Arctic Club, there is not likely to be any great to-do over the return of this latest Arctic hero. The Peary Arctic Club, Mr. Bridgman declared, was not given to ostentation. On his last return a dinner was given to Mr. Peary at the University Club and Mr. Bridgman presumed that a similar method of showing the explorer the honor which he had won by his friends will be adopted now that he is successful.

All this, Mr. Bridgman said, "will be done, but I can't get here for a week anyhow, or much less than that, and there's plenty of time. The main point is that he has discovered the pole—he doesn't care about being lionized."

Mr. Bridgman had spoken so many times of Etah that one of his interviewers was prompted to ask what sort of a town Etah was.

"Etah," said Mr. Bridgman, "consists of one mud hut, which is occupied at certain times of the year by the Eskimos. You know, move around, their location depending on the condition of the hunting and on the state of the weather. The one mud hut I mention is a store worth going to, but it is a store, and the Eskimos for Etah would be that it is a point on the map."

Some one remarked to Mr. Bridgman that it was unfortunate that the two explorers should have gained the pole at so nearly the same time.

"It is unfortunate," repeated Mr. Bridgman, "but I think it is better that it should be that way. It is a great deal of controversy. Commander Peary says that he has the right to the pole, and he is backed up by the knowledge of geography undoubtedly will be advanced."

The chief point which Mr. Bridgman made in his talk was the absolute lack of details so far of Peary's trip. He was sure that, as soon as the Commander reaches Sydney he will file a more or less detailed account which will answer the many questions the scientists are asking. He was asked whether he thought it possible that Dr. Cook and Peary had time to rest after their long trips of theirs to the north. He said he doubted it very much.

Peary had left New York so much later than Dr. Cook, not until June, 1908, which was later than the date which Dr. Cook sets for his own discovery of the pole. Mr. Bridgman said that it was very likely that Peary already knew of Dr. Cook's trip and his reported success from the natives at Etah, and it also was to his mind seemed very probable that Harry Whitney, Peary's secretary, had memoranda of observations, was returning with Peary on the Roosevelt, preferring the faster Roosevelt to the small schooner which had been sent up for his own return.

MISS BABE GLEEFUL.

Stenographer Who Once Went Part Way With Peary Enthusiastic Over the News.

PORTLAND, Me., Sept. 6.—Miss Mary Babb, the stenographer who braved hardships long enough to go part way north with Peary on his last expedition, and who returned to her home in Westbrook three years ago last September, fairly shouted with glee when she heard that it was reported that Peary had discovered the pole.

"I can only say that I am delighted," she said, "but I knew he would succeed. I don't want to detract any from the credit due Dr. Cook. There's one thing I can say, and that is if Commander Peary said he found the pole he found it, and if he had stopped fifty feet this side and been able to get no further he would have said so."

TWO KILLED IN AUTO CRASH.

Dr. Curtis of Round Lake and Mrs. Silvernail of Rochester the Victims.

BALLSTON, Sept. 6.—A collision between an automobile and a Hudson Valley trolley car at Round Lake to-night resulted in the death of Dr. Elmer C. Curtis of Round Lake and Mrs. Blanche Silvernail of Rochester, a guest at the Curtis home. Dr. Curtis and his wife, Mrs. White of Round Lake and Mrs. Silvernail were returning from the golf links, and as they reached the crossing the trolley car came around the curve at top speed and crashed into the machine. Dr. Curtis was instantly killed and Mrs. Silvernail died an hour after the accident. Mrs. Curtis was badly injured and may die. Mrs. White escaped unhurt. The force of the collision was so great that the auto was wrecked and carried 100 feet beyond the crossing.

The Weather.

The high pressure which has been travelling from the extreme Northwest was central over Pennsylvania yesterday, covering nearly all the eastern half of the country.

Beautifully clear weather prevailed over the middle Atlantic States and it was generally fair in practically all sections, except some showers in the Gulf States and Southwest.

It was somewhat cooler in the middle States and in the Atlantic and New England States in the morning, but grew warmer during the day under the influence of winds from southerly quarters.

In this city the day was clear; cooler in the morning, warmer during the day; wind, fresh southeast; average humidity, 83 per cent.; barometer, corrected to sea level, at 9 A. M., 30.165 P. M., 30.17.

The temperature yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table:

For eastern New York, eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, fair and warmer to-day; increasing cloudiness to-morrow; light variable winds.

For New England, fair to-day and probably to-morrow; warmer to-day; moderate southerly winds, becoming variable.

For the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, partly cloudy to-day and to-morrow; warmer to-day; light variable winds.

For western New York and western Pennsylvania, partly cloudy to-day and to-morrow; warmer to-day; light variable winds.

PEARY FOUND NORTH POLE

Continued from First Page.

land. He was so careful and painstaking. I know that if he requires a great deal of practice and experience to be able to take observations in that region. All scientists know this. I can't understand how a man could have made observations and be sure of them who had no experience in this direction to speak of. I don't want to talk about the Dr. Cook matter. I am too happy to-night to talk about it. But it is not unfair to say that though there may be some questions asked him about his observations there can be no question of the accuracy of my husband's. If Mr. Peary said he reached the pole you may depend upon it he was right there on the spot. Not ten miles from it, but at the very pole.

"We can't know yet all about it, but you may be sure that the observations were accurate. I am sure that if Dr. Cook reached the pole Mr. Peary will know about it before he gets back in touch with civilization. He must have crossed his trail on his way to the pole. Mr. Peary knows that the drift of the polar ice flow is eastward. He started far to the west, making due allowance for this. On his way north he must have necessarily crossed Dr. Cook's trail."

"The Eskimos are very shrewd about observing the tracks of sledges and the signs of dogs. Dr. Cook's trail was part of the way over land and part of the way over the ice. Of course the ice has moved eastward, but the tracks on the mainland would remain. If they were made there Mr. Peary undoubtedly knows about it. He will also have seen and talked with all the Eskimos and will know what they have to say about Dr. Cook's expedition. That's all I care to say about it now. I have had some letters and things which might be interesting, but I don't care to speak about them."

"My husband sent out his first message from Indian Harbor, Labrador. That was sent by wireless. To-morrow some time the Roosevelt is all right, he should be at Chateau Bay. There he will be within reach of a telegraph line by the way of Quebec and the world will have his story. He will then put out a story, which he should reach in three days."

"He will leave the Roosevelt there to go to New York at his leisure and with the rest of the party, and he will take the train for home. I shall stay right here until I hear from him from Chateau Bay. Then I shall hurry on to Sydney with the Eskimos and my messages to Robert Bridgman of Brooklyn and to others who are friends of Mr. Peary. She received a large number of messages from all quarters, but she did not take up the time of her guests to open them."

"I am not going to run away from you newspaper men," said Mrs. Peary. "I have nothing to conceal, not even my delight at this news, and I am willing to tell you everything I know."

Robert E. Peary, Jr., 6 years old, grew tired of the talk about the pole and demanded that his mother read him a story out of a funny paper.

"If you don't papa will," said the boy. "He won't talk about the pole all the time."

"God bless you, son; he will read it to you and right soon, too," said Mrs. Peary. Some one asked her if Commander Peary would now make an effort to reach the south pole.

"No, sir," she replied. "He will stay right at home and get acquainted with his family. He has won glory enough. He has had no kings at his feet, but that wasn't what he wanted. He has found the north pole and that's enough for any man to do."

NO REPORT TO TAFT YET.

So the President Has No Comment to Make on Latest Pole Finding.

BEVERLY, Mass., Sept. 6.—Mr. Taft has received no communication regarding the Peary discovery and he had no comment to make on the reports.

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Montana Farmer Backs Up Printz Story of Mount McKinley Climbs.

BUTTE, Sept. 6.—Ed Barrell, who with Fred Printz guided Dr. Cook on his Alaska trip in 1905, when he says he climbed Mount McKinley, backs up the story told by Printz regarding the trip. He alleges that Cook owes them about \$1,000 for that trip.

"No man living ever reached the top of Mount McKinley," said Barrell. "Some have reached a high altitude, but it is not necessary for me to say that we did not reach the top, for I am a poor farmer, and no one would believe me as against Dr. Cook. If he has gained any glory, I do not care to detract from it, but he was the greatest hot air artist I ever met."

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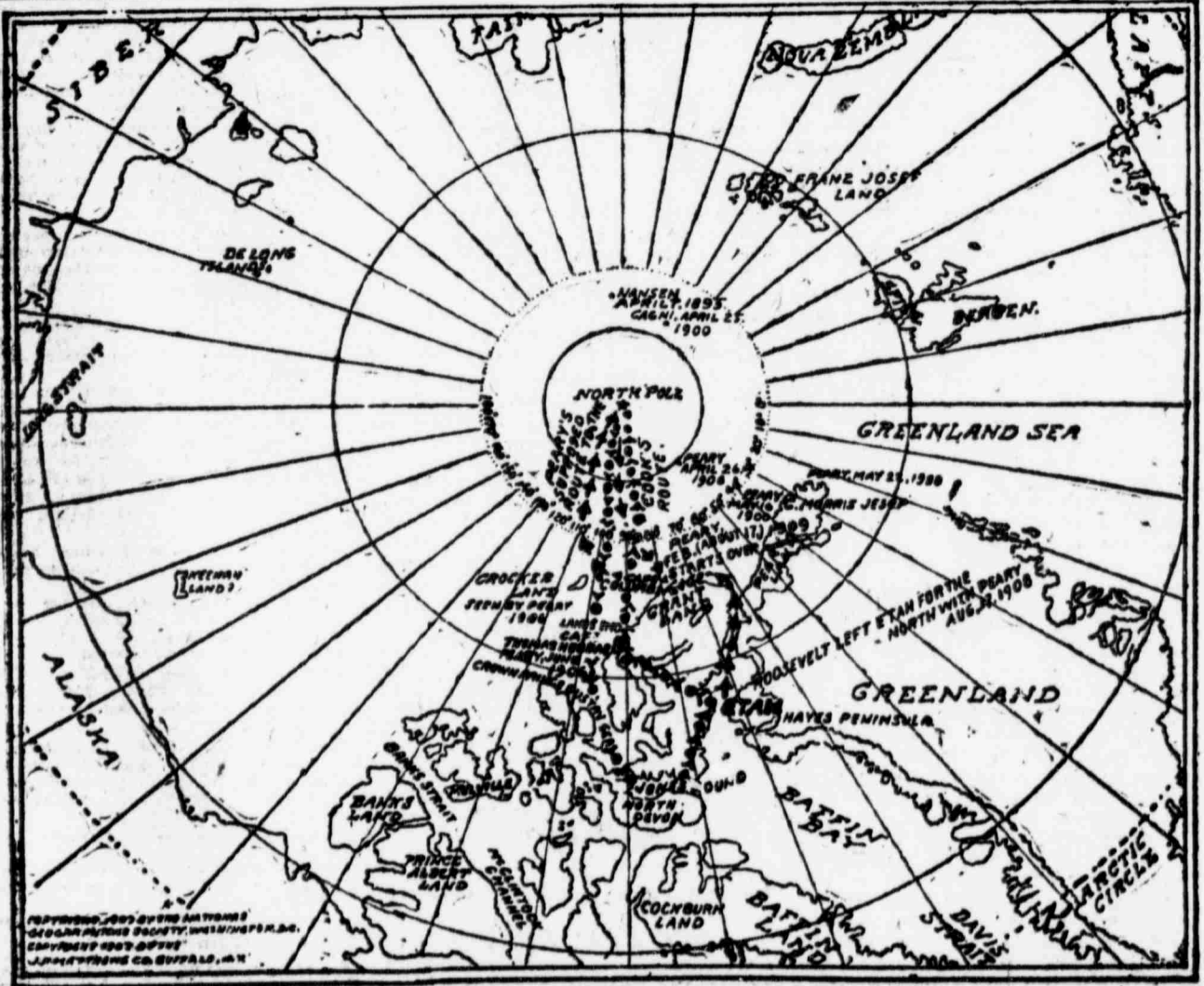
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MAP OF THE ARCTIC REGIONS SHOWING PEARY'S AND COOK'S ROUTES TO THE POLE.